

# The Cursed Frogs

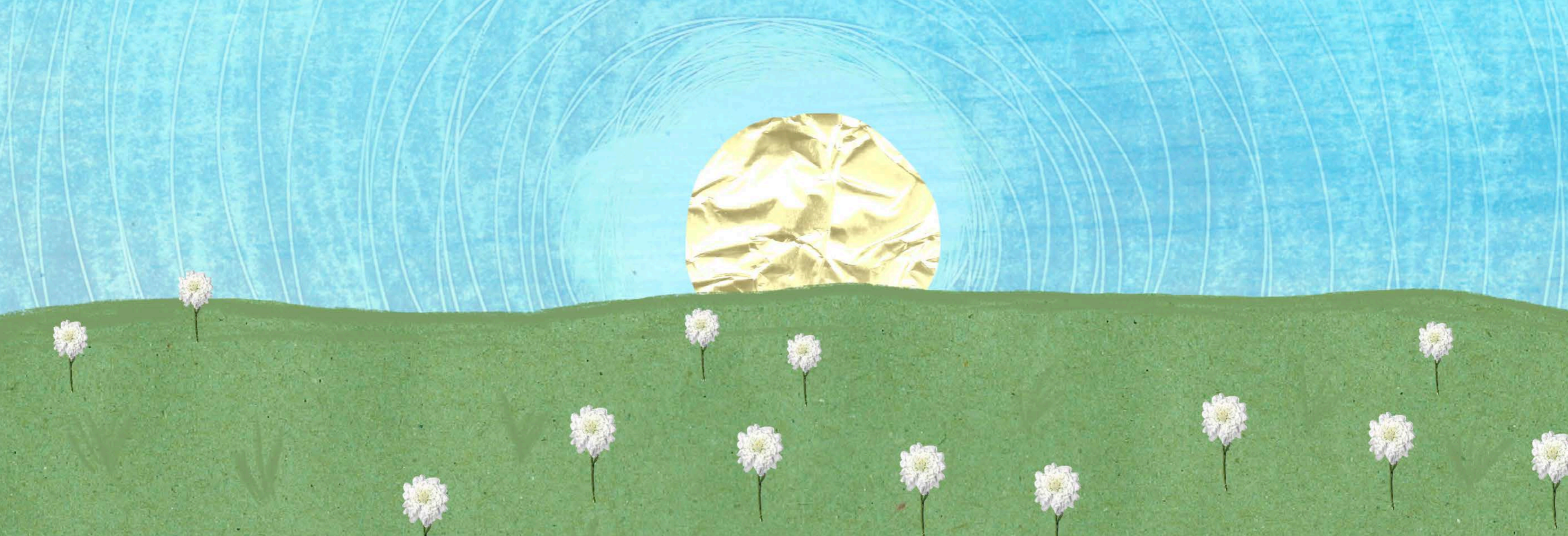


Told by Norman Haskell  
Illustrated by Tanya Shrimpton



I hope you enjoy this  
story. If you don't — tell  
the nearest pig!

NORMAN HASSELL

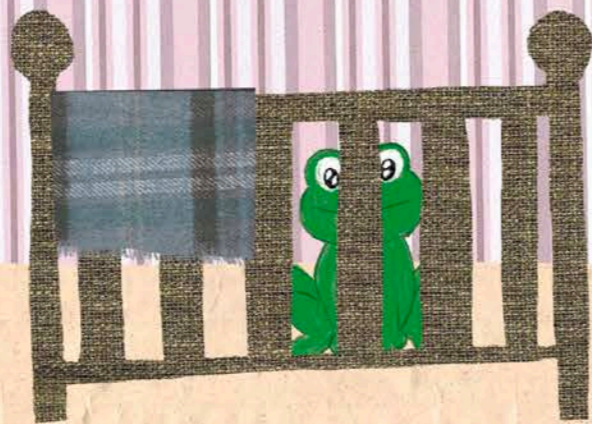


For My Grandad – The best Grandad in the world !



Once upon a time there lived a royal family of frogs. There was a King, a Queen and three frog Princes. They all lived together in a small palace within a quiet forest.

The Queen had an evil stepsister who was jealous of everything the Queen had, so when the frog Princes were born, the stepsister put a spell on them. The spell left a mark on each of their legs. However, one frog was left with no mark. The curse meant that when each prince reached the age of twelve, danger would come to find them.



The Queen wanted to keep her sons safe. She named each of them after their mark: Leftleg had a mark on his left leg, Rightleg had a mark on his right leg and the frog Prince with no mark was named Noleg. This would remind the King and Queen of the spell that surrounded their beloved sons.





The three frog Princes loved playing together by the pond just outside the forest. They would play all day until their Mother would call them home for tea. The Queen was very protective of the Princes, so she ordered them to never go further than the pond. The pond was always good fun and the frogs always had a great time hopping around and playing games.

On the prince's twelfth birthday, the frogs were playing by the pond when they heard a scuffling noise. They looked around and saw a badger on the other side of the gate. Noleg immediately wanted to investigate. "Let's go and have a look at the outside world!" The frogs slowly crept over to the gate to talk to the badger.






The badger said that he had some important news for them. The Queen's evil stepsister, who had cast the spell upon the brothers, had given them a chance to release the curse. They could be free from the curse if they each carried out a good deed, this in turn, would make the marks on their legs disappear. The frogs ran straight home to tell their Mother the good news.





The Queen was delighted and started to jump around in celebration.






A few days later, the frogs were playing by the pond when they started to feel bored. They had played all the games they could think of a hundred times, so they decided to explore the outside world. Rightleg and Leftleg cautiously followed Noleg over to the gate and the frogs hopped over it.

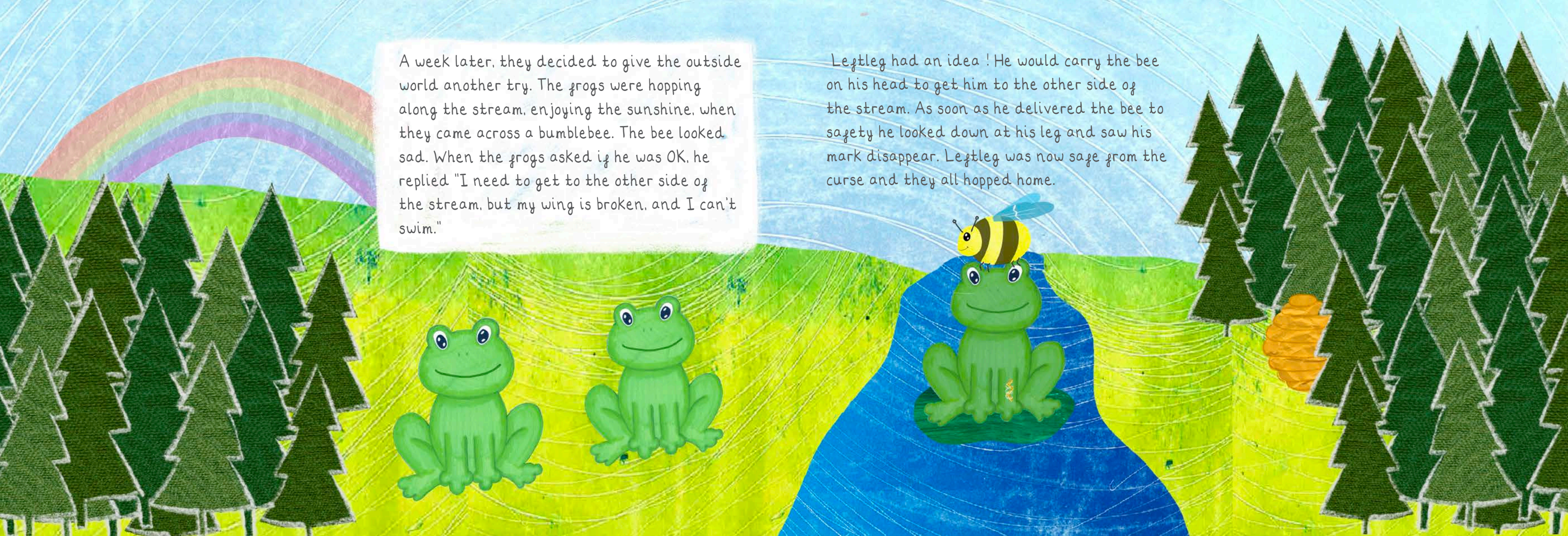
As soon as they landed Noleg said "WOW ! Look at this big wide world !" They looked around and realised they were by a stream.





As the frogs were hopping along, they met a fox. The fox sneered and said, "Hello my name is Danger, nice to meet you." As soon as the brothers heard the word 'danger' they immediately remembered their curse; 'Danger will come to find you'. "The biggest thing to be scared of is a fox." Danger continued.

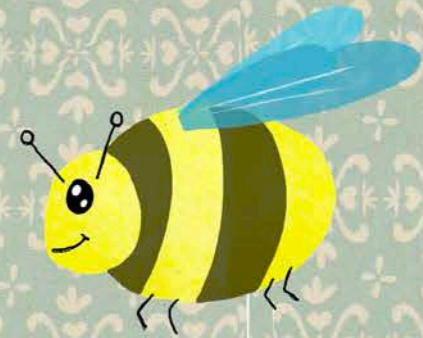
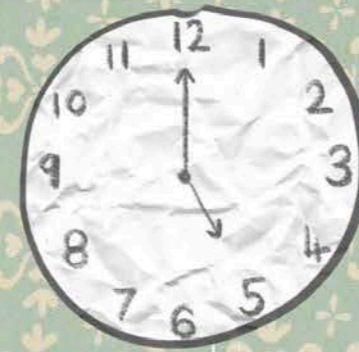
The frogs knew that they had to carry out their good deeds quickly. Rightleg spotted some brambles on the floor and promptly warned the fox before he trod on them. As soon as the fox stepped away from the brambles, Rightleg looked down just as the mark on his leg disappeared. He was now safe. The fox thanked him and carried on his day. "Phew!" the frogs chorused. They headed back to the safety of the forest.

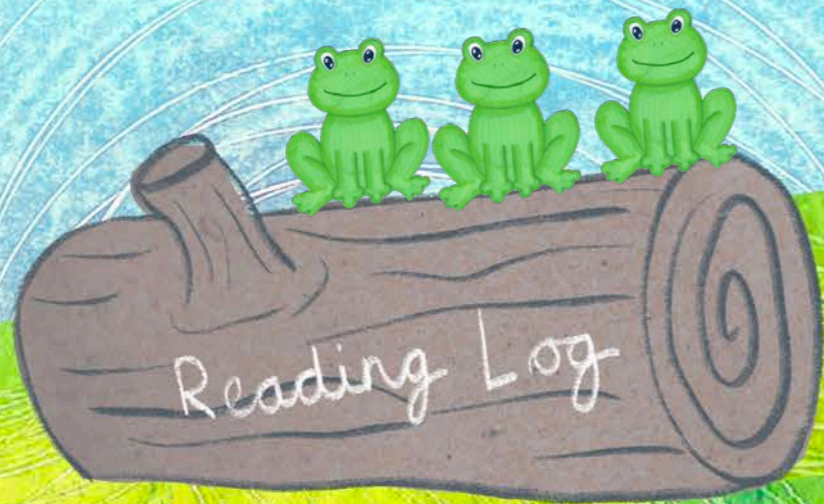


A week later, they decided to give the outside world another try. The frogs were hopping along the stream, enjoying the sunshine, when they came across a bumblebee. The bee looked sad. When the frogs asked if he was OK, he replied "I need to get to the other side of the stream, but my wing is broken, and I can't swim."

Leftleg had an idea ! He would carry the bee on his head to get him to the other side of the stream. As soon as he delivered the bee to safety he looked down at his leg and saw his mark disappear. Leftleg was now safe from the curse and they all hopped home.

For one of the first times in his life Noleg felt scared - danger had still not come to find him. He continues to live very carefully and to this day he is safe. As Noleg has no mark, the King and Queen believe that he was not cursed as deeply as his brothers. The Royal frog family always look after each other and are always careful to look out for danger. They still carry out good deeds too.

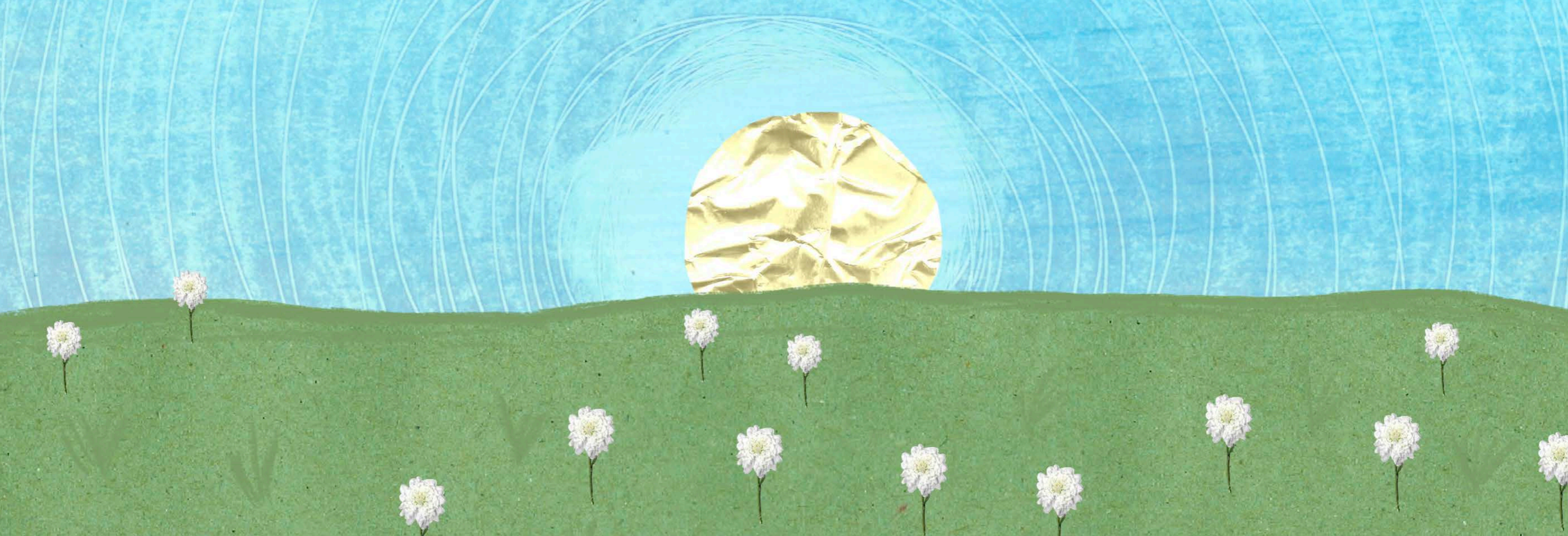




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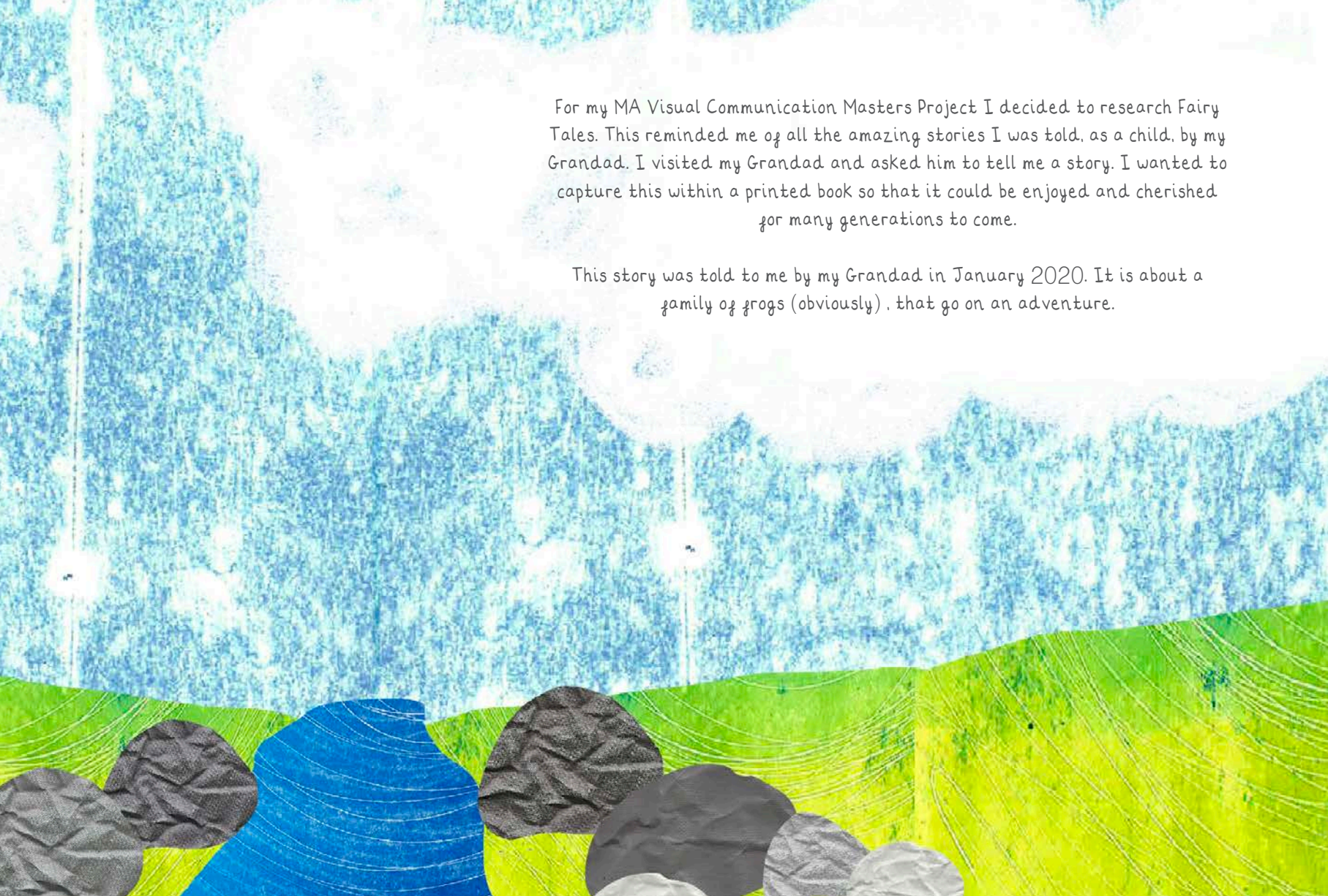
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Thank you for reading.





For my MA Visual Communication Masters Project I decided to research Fairy Tales. This reminded me of all the amazing stories I was told, as a child, by my Grandad. I visited my Grandad and asked him to tell me a story. I wanted to capture this within a printed book so that it could be enjoyed and cherished for many generations to come.

This story was told to me by my Grandad in January 2020. It is about a family of frogs (obviously), that go on an adventure.